

Claims

1. A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen, said method comprising:

5 (a) obtaining the vaginal specimen wherein the specimen contains few or no endocervical cells;

(b) extracting DNA from the specimen; and

(c) detecting the presence of HPV DNA in the specimen.

2. A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen, said method comprising:

10 (a) obtaining the vaginal specimen wherein the specimen contains few or no endocervical cells;

(b) contacting the specimen with a polypeptide that binds to a HPV antibody; and

(c) detecting the presence of the HPV antibody in the specimen.

15 3. A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen, said method comprising:

(a) obtaining the vaginal specimen wherein the specimen contains few or no endocervical cells;

(b) contacting the specimen with a polypeptide that binds to a HPV protein; and

(c) detecting the presence of the HPV protein in the specimen.

20 4. A method for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a vaginal specimen of a patient, the method comprising:

(a) obtaining the vaginal specimen by self-collection by the patient, wherein the specimen contains few or no endocervical cells; and

(b) assaying the specimen for the presence of HPV.

5. The method of claims 1-4, wherein the HPV is high risk HPV (hrHPV).

5 6. A kit for detecting the presence of human papilloma virus (HPV) in a specimen, comprising a specimen collection device for obtaining a sample containing few or no endocervical cells, and optionally instructions for use and packaging materials.

7. The kit of claim 5, wherein the HPV is high risk HPV (hrHPV).